

DATE: DECEMBER 11, 2018

TIME: 11:00 AM

**MEETING  
ORGANIZER:**

Nicole DiStasio

**ATTENDEES:**

*State representatives:* Jennifer Perkins; Bard Hill; Jackie Rogers

*Provider Representatives:* William Ashe; Jennifer Stratton

*Recipient Representatives:* Susan Yuan, Beth Masters, Kaiya Andrews

**MEETING MINUTES:**

The Standardized Needs Assessment workgroup has been meeting regularly. The group feels it has arrived at consensus that the Supports Intensity Scale appears to be the most viable option for a standardized assessment tool, with some caveats and concerns. These include:

- what supplemental questions would be needed to be added to adequately determine funding levels (this requires greater clarity on the future payment model and how the needs assessment information will be tied to funding)
- how funding exceptions or 'outliers' would be addressed
- who would perform the assessment
- how much a transition to the SIS would cost
- how the SIS assessment would (or would not) be used for a person-centered plan
- how the SIS would (or would not) be used in determining staffing including staff skill and training
- protocols for reassessments
- How the workflow would be designed which could potentially impact the zero reject premise of the current system
- how minor changes in needs, funding or service plans would be addressed in a workflow
- how major changes in needs, funding or service plans would be addressed in a workflow

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The group might benefit from a review of the purpose and goals of this health reform initiative- what we are trying to accomplish. We might include both intended consequences and avoiding unintended consequences.

Therefore, the assessment group recommends that it be blended with the payment model workgroup to assist in developing the process and algorithm that connects assessment to funding, and how this connects to a person-centered plan.

Because cost will be a consideration in deciding on a new needs assessment and workflow, the workgroup recommends that should the cost of implementing the SIS be found prohibitive, DAIL/DDSD consider revamping and expanding the current Vermont needs assessment, with an improved training process, such that the current needs assessment's equity/consistency/reliability could be improved.

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**OUR NEXT MEETING'S DATE: STEERING COMMITTEE TUESDAY, DECEMBER 18<sup>TH</sup>, 9-11**